

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 16 and amend Claims 5, 15, and 17, as follows.

1-4. Cancelled.

5. (currently amended) In a method of building a tire including a tread cap the improvement comprising the following steps:

(a) forming a green tire having a tread region without the tread cap;

(b) forming the tread cap as a non-marking tread cap,

wherein the tread cap consists of natural and synthetic rubber, ethylene propylene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, carbon black, white carbon, rubber oil, zinc oxide, ~~stearic acid~~, tackifier, microcrystallized wax, antioxidant, antiozonant, and optionally stearic acid, sulphemamide, mercapto benzothiazole, thiuram, insoluble Sulfur and Sulfur;

(c) integrating the tread cap with the tread region of the green tire; and

(d) curing the green tire with the tread cap to create a tire having the tread cap of non-marking composition.

6-7. Cancelled.

8. (previously amended) A method of building a tire including a tread cap comprising the following steps:

(a) forming a green tire having a tread region without the tread cap;

(b) forming the tread cap as a non-marking tread cap, the composition of the tread cap comprising between 30-70 parts of natural and synthetic rubber, 20-50 parts of ethylene propylene rubber, 11-60 parts of carbon black, 11-60 parts of white carbon, and 7.5-12.5 parts of rubber oil, the parts being parts by weight of the tread cap; and

(c) integrating the tread cap with the tread region of the tire.

9. (original) The method of building a tire according to Claim 8, the tread cap further comprising 1-5 parts of zinc oxide, 0-1 parts of stearic acid, 7-30 parts of tackifier, 7-12 parts of microcrystallized wax, 1-5 parts of antioxidant, 1-5 parts antiozonant, 0-1 parts of sulphemamide, 0-1 parts of mercapto benzothiazole, 0-1 parts of thiuram, 0-1 parts of insoluble Sulfur and 0-2 parts of Sulfur.

10. (original) The method of building a tire according to Claim 8, the tread cap further comprising a colorant for creating a colored, non-marking tread.

11. (previously amended) The method of building a tire according to Claim 8, further comprising the step (d) of curing the green tire with the tread cap to create a tire having the tread cap of a non-marking composition.

12. (previously amended) A tire made by the process of Claim 8.

13-14. (cancelled)

15. (previously amended) The tire of Claim 12, wherein the tread cap further includes polybutadiene rubber, microcrystallized wax, antioxidant and antiozonant.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A tire made by the process. The tire of Claim 5, the non-marking tread cap wherein the having between 30-70 parts of natural and synthetic rubber is present in the amount of 30-70 parts, the 20-50 parts of ethylene propylene rubber is present in the amount of 20-50 parts, the 11-60 parts of carbon black is present in the amount of 11-60 parts, the 11-60 parts of white carbon is present in the amount of 11-60 parts, and the 7.5-12.5 parts of rubber oil is present in the amount of 7.5-12.5 parts, the parts being parts by weight of the tread cap.

18. (currently amended) The tire of Claim 17, the tread cap further consisting of comprising 1-5 parts of zinc oxide, 0-1 parts of stearic acid, 7-30 parts of tackifer, 7-12 parts of microcrystallized wax, 1-5 parts of antioxidant, 1-5 parts antiozonant, 0-1 parts of sulphenamide, 0-1 parts of mercapto benzothiazole, 0-1 parts of thiuram, 0-1 parts of insoluble Sulfur and 0-2 parts of Sulfur.

19. (previously amended) The tire of Claim 18, wherein the tire is a pneumatic bias tire.

20. (original) The tire of Claim 19, further comprising a colorant for creating a colored, non-marking tread.